



**TOORAK  
UNITING  
CHURCH**

We are a people  
who follow Jesus.  
His words and actions  
inform our living.

**03 9829 0300**  
**office@toorakuc.org.au**

To protect our community, if you have Covid or flu-like symptoms please wear a mask during worship, particularly when singing. Maintaining a distance of 1.5m from others is also recommended.

---

# Order of Service

**13 October 2024 – 10:15am Worship Service**

**Worship Leader – Rev Gillian Crozier**

**Worship Leader – Dylan Quinlan-Baskett**



*Image courtesy of Adobe Stock*

**Introit**                 The Lord is high above all nations  
                              *Sir Donald Cashmore 1926-2013*

*The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heav'ns.*

## **Lighting the Candle**

## **Welcome and Community News**

## **Call to Worship**

**Hymn 137**        For the beauty of the earth

## **Opening Prayers**

***All: Before God and with the people of God we confess to our brokenness, to the way that we wound our life, the life of others and the life of the world.***

Silence

Prayer

***All: May God's gracious love renew us, empower and enable us to live in love and peace.***

## **Theme**

**Hymn 153**        God is love

## **ENGAGING WITH THE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE**

The words of scripture are a lamp to our feet:  
***a light to our path.***

**Reading**         Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4                                 Charles Kucera

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die;  
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill and a time to heal;  
a time to break down and a time to build up;  
a time to weep and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance;

**Anthem**      If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis 1505-1585

*If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray to the Father,  
and He shall give you another comforter, that He may abide with you for ever.  
E'en the Spirit, e'en the Spirit of truth. And Ye know Him, for He dwelleth  
with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless I will come to you.*

**Reading**      Psalm 90: 1-12

Andrew Kucera

God's Eternity and Human Frailty  
A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."  
For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past  
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger;  
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.  
You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
our years come to an end like a sigh.

The days of our life are seventy years  
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span is only toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger?  
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.  
So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.

As we ponder these treasured writings from the past,  
may we discover Your words for us today.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Reflection**      A Healthy Meditation

**Poem**              When Death Comes              by Mary Oliver 1935-2019

When death comes  
like the hungry bear in autumn;  
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse  
to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;  
when death comes  
like the measles-pox  
when death comes  
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,  
I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:  
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?  
And therefore I look upon everything  
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,  
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,  
and I consider eternity as another possibility,  
and I think of each life as a flower, as common  
as a field daisy, and as singular,  
and each name a comfortable music in the mouth,  
tending, as all music does, toward silence,  
and each body a lion of courage, and something  
precious to the earth.  
When it's over, I want to say all my life  
I was a bride married to amazement.  
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.  
When it's over, I don't want to wonder  
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.  
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,  
or full of argument.  
I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

## Hymn

Be not afraid

by John Michael Talbot 1974-

You shall cross the barren desert,  
but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety  
though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands  
and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea,  
you shall not drown.

If you walk amid the burning flames,  
you shall not be harmed.

If you stand before the pow'r of hell  
and death is at your side,  
know that I am with you through it all.

Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

Blessed are your poor,  
for the kingdom shall be theirs.

Blest are you that weep and mourn,  
for one day you shall laugh.

And if wicked tongues insult and hate you  
all because of me,  
blessed, blessed are you!

Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

## OUR RESPONSE

### The Prayer for Others and Silence

***All: God give us grace to accept with serenity  
the things we cannot change,  
courage to change the things that should be changed,  
and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.***

**Hymn**                      Lord for the years  
   *words by Timothy Dudley Smith 1926-2024*

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;  
past put behind us, for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

**The Offering and Dedication**

**Offertory**                      Ubi Caritas    *Maurice Duruflé 1902-1986*

*Where there is charity and love, God is there.  
The love of Christ's has gathered us as one.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Let us honour and love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love one other.*

**Blessing**

**Postlude**                      Præludium in D LübWV 11                      *Vincent Lübeck 1654-1740*





The flowers in church today are from Sandra Stacy

Your offering will be gratefully received via direct credit to  
Account Name: Toorak Church  
BSB: 033086 Account Number: 911892

### **Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church**

Toorak Uniting Church acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to, whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Toorak Uniting Church has been a proud member of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement since signing the Ecumenical Agreement in 1980. We pray for our partner churches: St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, St John's Anglican Church and the Swedish Church.